

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 042659 TOSEC 040174

FOLLOWING REPEAT LISBON 01143 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN
LONDON MADRID MOSCOW OPPORTO PARIS PONTA DELGADA ROME
STOCKHOLM NATO DIA USCINCEUR 21 FEB 76

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1143

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PO, AO

SUBJECT: RECOGNITION OF MPLA APPEARS IMMINENT

REF: LISBON 1127 (DTG 201353Z FEB 76, LISBON 1056 (DTG 181602Z FEB 76)

1. FOLLOWING SPECIAL FEB 20 MEETING OF REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL
(RC) SPOKESMAN CPT SOUSA E CASTRO ANNOUNCED RC HAD REACHED
"CONSENSUS" ON QUESTION OF RECOGNIZING ANGOLA. NOTING THAT A
NUMBER OF COUNCIL MEMBERS WERE UNABLE TO ATTEND FEB 20 MEETING,
HE EMPHASIZED THAT CONSENSUS HAD BEEN REACHED AT PRIOR MEETING
OF FULL RC. (REF A).

2. SOUSA E CASTRO SAID PRESIDENT WOULD CALL EMERGENCY
MEETING OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO DISCUSS ANGOLA. MEETING
HAS BEEN SET FOR 10:00 P.M. LOCAL FEB 21. PRIME MINISTER AZEVEDO
WILL CUT SHORT VISIT TO MADEIRA TO ATTEND MEETING. IT IS NOT
KNOWN WHETHER RECOGNITION OPPONENT INTERIOR MINISTER
ALMEIDA E COSTA, ALSO IN MADEIRA, WILL ACCOMPANY PRIME MINISTER
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TO LISBON.

3. SOCIALISTS TOLD POLITICAL COUNSELOR FEB 20 THEY WOULD NOT OPPOSE RECOGNITION IN CM MEETING, BUT PLANNED TO RELEASE COMMUNIQUE DISASSOCIATING THEMSELVES FROM MOVE. COMMUNIQUE WOULD EMPHASIZE THAT SOCIALISTS HAD ARGUED AGAINST RECOGNITION PRIOR TO NEGOTIATIONS WITH MPLA TO GUARANTEE PORTUGUESE INTERESTS IN ANGOLA AND TO GET SOVIETS AND CUBANS OUT. POPULAR DEMOCRAT SOURCES HAVE INFORMED US THEY CONTINUE TO BE VEHEMENTLY OPPOSED TO RECOGNITION. IT IS NOT CLEAR, HOWEVER, TO WHAT LENGTHS THEY WILL GO TO BLOCK MOVE IN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

4. COMMENT: MELO ANTUNES TOLD AMBASSADOR IN LAST MEETING THAT CM WOULD BE CONSULTED PRIOR TO RECOGNITION. EMERGENCY MEETING COUPLED WITH SOUSA E CASTRO REMARKS ON RC CONSENSUS MAKE IT APPEAR RECOGNITION IS IMMINENT--PERHAPS TONIGHT.
CARLUCCI
UNQUOTE
INGERSOLL

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